

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

November 2003

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

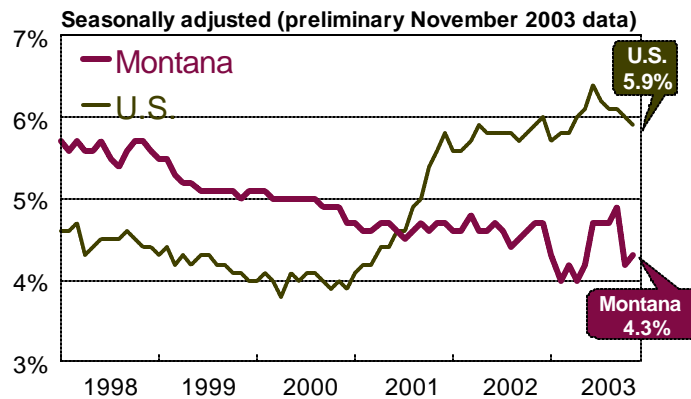
	Nov. 2003*	Nov. 2002
UNITED STATES	5.6%	5.7%
MONTANA	4.4%	4.7%
Cascade **	4.3%	4.1%
Missoula **	3.3%	3.8%
Yellowstone **	3.2%	4.1%
Beaverhead	3.0%	4.9%
Big Horn	11.7%	13.3%
Blaine	5.7%	5.7%
Broadwater	5.7%	4.4%
Carbon	3.7%	4.0%
Carter	1.3%	2.3%
Chouteau	3.1%	3.0%
Custer	2.4%	3.1%
Daniels	2.0%	2.8%
Dawson	2.1%	2.0%
Deer Lodge	6.5%	6.1%
Fallon	3.1%	3.8%
Fergus	4.6%	5.3%
Flathead	6.7%	6.0%
Gallatin	3.4%	3.7%
Garfield	2.1%	2.7%
Glacier	12.0%	10.5%
Golden Valley	7.7%	4.7%
Granite	5.6%	6.0%
Hill	3.2%	3.7%
Jefferson	4.0%	4.7%
Judith Basin	4.7%	4.4%
Lake	5.8%	6.1%
Lewis & Clark	3.3%	4.2%
Liberty	2.7%	3.0%
Lincoln	12.4%	10.4%
McCone	1.5%	1.5%
Madison	3.6%	4.3%
Meagher	5.2%	5.1%
Mineral	7.6%	10.0%
Musselshell	6.2%	6.7%
Park	4.5%	5.4%
Petroleum	4.1%	2.4%
Phillips	4.2%	4.8%
Pondera	4.7%	3.9%
Powder River	2.4%	2.3%
Powell	4.3%	6.7%
Prairie	5.2%	3.7%
Ravalli	5.6%	5.4%
Richland	3.1%	4.5%
Roosevelt	7.2%	6.9%
Rosebud	5.8%	6.6%
Sanders	6.3%	7.7%
Sheridan	3.3%	1.9%
Silver Bow	4.6%	5.2%
Stillwater	2.8%	3.5%
Sweet Grass	1.9%	2.5%
Teton	3.1%	3.9%
Toole	2.2%	2.5%
Treasure	2.9%	5.8%
Valley	3.2%	2.7%
Wheatland	3.8%	5.0%
Wibaux	1.4%	2.3%

*November 2003 rate preliminary

** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula=Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

NOVEMBER 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment



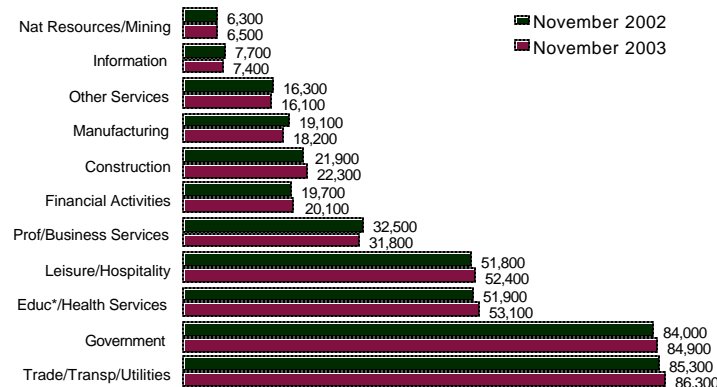
Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's November unemployment rate of 4.3 percent was 1.6 percentage points lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 4.3 percent over the year for November, outpacing the 1.8 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)



*Private educational services. (Public education is included in the government sector.)

Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 2,600 jobs (0.7 percent) over the year for November. The largest over-the-year gains were in private education & health services; trade, transportation and utilities; government; and leisure & hospitality.

CENSUS 2000

Who makes up Montana's current generations?

The Swing generation is this month's highlighted generation. The Swing generation includes people born approximately between 1930 and 1945; between the ages of 55 to 70 years old in 2000. Presumably, this generation was named after the music of the 1930s and 40s.

Census 2000 information shows that out of the 902,195 people living in Montana, 124,103 were in the Swing generation, or 14% of Montana's total population. In the Swing generation, 61,652 people were male; 62,451 were female. That makes the Swing generation about 50% male and 50% female.

The chart below shows the Montana counties with the largest percent of Swing generation people, 19% and above. Find more Census information at:

<http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>

County	Number of Residents	Number of Swing	Percent of Swing
Daniels	2,017	393	19
Golden Valley	1,042	206	20
Granite	2,830	552	20
Lincoln	18,837	3,567	19
Madison	6,851	1,305	19
Mineral	3,884	745	19
Prairie	1,199	233	19
Sanders	10,227	2,056	20

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MONTANA'S PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

Here is a look at Montana's 2002 annual average employment and wages in private industry broken out into North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sectors.

INDUSTRY	Employment	Wages	INDUSTRY	Employment	Wages
Montana - Total	310,426	\$24,816	Accommodation & Food Services	42,431	\$10,438
Ag, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	4,338	\$23,926	Mining	5,107	\$52,771
Utilities	2,912	\$56,250	Construction	21,526	\$30,645
Manufacturing	19,996	\$33,438	Wholesale Trade	15,351	\$33,534
Retail Trade	53,803	\$19,309	Transportation & Warehousing	10,133	\$28,034
Information	7,845	\$32,794	Finance & Insurance	14,191	\$35,928
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	4,986	\$18,679	Professional & Technical Services	16,076	\$35,015
Management of Companies & Enterprises	1,278	\$36,276	Educational Services	3,443	\$18,894
Administrative & Waste Services	14,626	\$18,202	Health Care & Social Assistance	48,354	\$27,983
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8,394	\$13,567	Other Services	15,278	\$18,136

Information based on (ES 202) Covered Employment & Wages - 2002 Annual Averages.

♦ Accommodation and Food Services was the lowest-paying industry sector with just over \$10,000 in annual average wages during 2002. This sector includes hotels, motels, eating and drinking establishments. Many occupations in this sector are part-time and or minimum wage jobs, which tends to bring down the average wages on an annualized basis.

♦ Information, a new sector under NAICS, exceeded the statewide wages by almost one third. The Telecommunications subsector anchored the wages with an annual average wage of \$49,069.

♦ The Retail Trade sector has the most employees of any of the sectors in the table above, but fell short of the statewide annual wage by more than \$5,500 in 2002. Within the Retail sector, Automobile Dealers was the only industry group that exceeded the 2002 Montana annual average wage.

♦ **The highest-paying industry sectors** were Utilities and Mining, each averaging more than \$50,000 a year during 2002. Both of these industries tend to employ highly-skilled and higher-paying occupations.

If you would like more information, contact the Research & Analysis Bureau, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, 406-444-2430, or visit our website at: www.ourfactyourfuture.org